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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
10/644,814	08/21/2003	James D. Buckner	MR3209-2	6180	
4586 75	590 03/16/2004		EXAMINER		
ROSENBERO	G, KLEIN & LEE	BARRETT, SUZANNE LALE DINO			
	T CENTER DRIVE-S	APTIBUT	D. DED AND COED		
ELLICOTT CI	TY, MD 21043		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
			3676		

DATE MAILED: 03/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

			Application No.	Applicant(s)				
Office Action Summary		10/644,814	BUCKNER, JAMES	3 D.				
		Examiner	Art Unit					
			Suzanne Dino Barrett	3676				
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply								
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).								
Status								
1)	Responsive to communication(s) file	ed on 21 Au	gust 2003.					
· _	This action is FINAL. 2b)⊠ This action is non-final.							
′=	, <del>-</del>							
Dispositi	on of Claims							
5)□ 6)⊠ 7)⊠	<ul> <li>4)  Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.</li> <li>4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.</li> <li>5)  Claim(s) is/are allowed.</li> <li>6)  Claim(s) 1,7-17 is/are rejected.</li> <li>7)  Claim(s) 2-6 and 18-23 is/are objected to.</li> <li>8)  Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.</li> </ul>							
Applicati	on Papers							
<ul> <li>9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.</li> <li>10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).</li> </ul>								
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.								
Priority u	ınder 35 U.S.C. § 119							
<ul> <li>12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).</li> <li>a) All b) Some * c) None of:</li> <li>1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.</li> <li>2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No.</li> <li>3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).</li> <li>* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.</li> </ul>								
Attachment	t(s) e of References Cited (PTO-892)		4) 🔲 Interview Summary (	(PTO-413)				
2) Notice 3) Inform	e of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (F nation Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or r No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/22/2003</u> .		Paper No(s)/Mail Da		152)			

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#### **DETAILED ACTION**

#### Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
- 2. Claims 1,7,10-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Crumley et al 5,813,262.

Crumley et al teach a pair of closable ring portions formed by the interlocking triangularly shaped clasp ends 40,50 and 30,32, with a roughened means 58 to angularly displace the clasp ends to allow release thereof. The rings define a gap therebetween and are biased to tension thereby preventing opening until the angular displacement via the element 58. Crumley further provides a connection hole portion 62 for receiving a key ring tool.

### Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- 3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
  - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

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4. Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crumley et al in view of Evalt 2,432,870. Evalt teaches a key ring having a clasp at the ends comprised of several different shapes including trapezoidally shaped ends (Figs. 2,3) or L-shaped ends (Figs. 5,6) which interlock. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the clasp ends of Crumley et al to have either a trapezoidal or L shape as taught by Evalt, instead of the triangular shape, as an obvious matter of design choice in enhancing the interlock between the ends.

## Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 2-6,18-23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

#### Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Note the rings and clasps of Morrone '557, '043, Denney, Tsamas, Park; the teeth shape of Nachtrieb; the contiguous groove of Roy '500; the angular displacement means of Middleton et al '384, Kuhnl, the clasp of Modrey '272, Wilson '334, Curwood, Brooks '910; the clasp fasteners 50 of Jacobson '253; Stradella, Kitamura, Simon, Nagano, Oetiker, Zielinski.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Suzanne Dino Barrett whose telephone number is 703-308-0825. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 8:30-7:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Knight can be reached on 703-308-3179. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Suzanne Dino Barrett Primary Examiner Art Unit 3676

sdb